

IFSW ASIA PACIFIC

Summary Report

On

Promoting Rights to Children: Child Labour and Children on the Move

20 October 2015

Guest Speakers

- 1) Sriganesh MV from India
- 2) Bala Nikku from Nepal
- 3) Habibur Rahman from Bangladesh
- 4) Sompong Srakaew from Thailand

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1. Sriganesh MV

About the Speaker

- Bachelor of Science, Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Laws
- Human Resources & Social Development Consultant
- Secretary General-India Network of Professional Social Workers' Associations

Mr. Sriganesh started his talk by an ice-breaking session. The forum attendants were asked to recall their childhood between the age of 5 and 14, think of the pleasant memories as well as mischief, and share with the attendants near them the greatest moment during that time for 2 minutes. With this activity, Mr. Sriganesh was trying to indicate that the attendants might have had quite pleasant childhood while there are many children who are deprived of livelihood, school, and even childhood. The speaker convinced the audience that we all should not just be sympathetic for them, but looks at empathy as a value where we can always step into their shoes; try to understand the problem they are facing, and think of the best thing we can do. As social workers, whether that we are working in the area of children are not, at least, if we try and dedicate ourselves to see that we do something in this area of child protection, preventing children from child labour, I think this is what can add value to this. Mr. Sriganesh is very sure that today we are all dedicating ourselves to work towards this. We need to be looking at how we bring back this child labour and put it into education.

Definitions

Child labour is a work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development is termed as child labour.

UN and ILO on Child Labour

ILO talks of 3-4 parameters on the child labour. The first thing talks of the work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous to children, the work that interferes with their schooling and deprives them of the opportunity to attend school, and the work that requires them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

There are 2 main ILO conventions – 138 and 182. The Convention 138 speaks of the age and the 182 speaks of the worst form of child labour. This section 182 is the ILO convention that was brought because of the pressure that has been mounted by many social activists. It is largely because of Satyarthi's work and activism that the ILO adopted the Convention 182.

Indian Constitution on Child Rights

The government has tried to bring in legislation, amendments to the Child Labour Act. It speaks of the definition of child that is less than 14, but then the age between 14 and 18 is adolescent. And it also tries to allow the child labour in the area where there are family businesses. We are opposing this because this definitely puts us backward, not forward. Unfortunately, India has not yet signed the UN Convention on Child Labour and made an excuse saying that if we abolish child labour below 18, then we are really taking away their livelihood because unless the children work, their lives will not have any meaning. But in reality, we all know that it is not true in that kind of sense. We are trying to say that we must bring in measures so that not only to make the children back in the school, but also the families are being supported.

One of the recent amendments have been brought to use the right to education until 14 years. Prior to this amendment, in India, education was only directive principal of state policy. But today, it is now brought as a right. There is an enactment that has been passed to let every child to have a right to school, which means that the parents have an obligation to send their child to school until they are 14 years old. If they do not send, they also can be prosecuted. Secondly, the schools cannot refuse a child; the child has to get admitted. Thirdly, all the states governments are supposed to create an infrastructure to see that these children get opportunity to go to school and opportunity for a full rehabilitation.

Legislations on Child Rights/Labour

When we say “constitution”, it is always like this: constitution will give some basic direction to the rights, but ultimately, there has to be a legislation to see that those rights are implemented. There are a few legislations in India. The main legislation is known as The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986. It speaks of the prohibition on the one hand, and it also speaks of the regulation. The simple reason is that, there are still some

industries which are exempted from the abolition of child labour. Again, child right activist groups are opposing this and we have been supporting these child right activists to call for a revision of the legislation.

There is the Juvenile Justice Act. It is the act about the right of children for free and compulsory education, which is known as RTE. There are a number of enactments that govern the industry: right from the Factories Act, which speaks of the factories not being allowed to engage a child under 14 and a child between 14 and 18, which is an adolescent, must have certification to work inside the industries. There are also Shops Act, Shops and Establishment Act, Mines Act, Plantation Act, and various legislations. Again, although children below 14 are not permitted to work, those between 14 and 18 are still allowed.

In India policies, there is a national policy, national child labour policy. There are 5 or 6 parameters built on which this policy has been developed. One speaks of health for the children, education for the children and it speaks of protection of the children and participation of children. It is a very interesting module today that the states have been asked to see that the child participate in what the states think the child should have and what sort of destiny that the child should have. A small example is that, India has the local self-government which is below the state government. This system is called “panchayat raj”. When we talk about “panchayat raj”, there is an institution which the children are brought together and they are asked to tell about their problems. And let me tell you, it is so interesting that children are able to understand and visualize the development that has to take place, right from a bad road to bad schools to bad sanitation, including, some of the values they talked, they said that some of these people are cut up how do we really do. This will help them become better citizens and contribute to this society in a better way. And this is something very unique. It is highlighted in the national child labour policy, child labour politics. The approaches for the child labour politics are 1) to bring students within the ambit of education and putting them to the schools and 2) how do you support their families to see that their kitchens run.

Causes/Reasons

India is a very high and large populated country, 1.28 billion, far more than some other countries. About 400 million of them are children. The poverty rate was 29%. These poor families receive less than 2 dollars a day, although they live. One of the social welfare

measures supporting these families includes subsidizing food grains at 1 rupee. That is one of our supports to see that they send their children to school.

There is another dilemma that challenges social workers. We have such a large population and statistically, the Gross enrolment ratio of Indian children is just touching around 50%. So what happens to the other 50%? The presumption is, if they are not in the schools, they are working.

Child Labour-Sector Wise

The child labour in agricultural sector will never take it into account in India. They are in farming and forestry and 70% of the population is still doing this.

Government Response & Mechanism

There are NGO networks in India. Many organizations are working in the area of child labour, including protection, including liberating the labour.

The key challenge- poverty- is still the main issue. Social workers need to emulate some of the world models. There is one organization to provide housing for 25,000 tribal children. So, this institution has been working with the tribal children and bringing the tribal children into the institutional facility, and 25,000 students are studying there. Other examples of institutions include one organization which is run by a trained social worker who is a friend of Mr. Sriganesh. There are a few great social workers who are in this field of NGOs, but a large number of people from different fields who take it as a passion to work, to see that the child labour is abolished.

2. Bala Nikku Ph.D. from Nepal

About the Speaker

- Founding Director, Nepal School of Social Work
- Sr. Lecturer of Social Work, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Dr. Bala Nikku shared an ambition, a passion, and a commitment to create a social discourse to eliminate the child labour. His presentation was a little aspiration in that sense. So he talked at the history of children rights and child labour, the politics and the policies. To the speaker, the answer to the problem lies within the ability to manage the politics and policies.

His talked could be ordered as follows:

1) the dominant discourses that we see in the child labour from academics and practitioners

2) the situation in Nepal and how child labour elimination in Nepal is being influenced and affected by these discourses

3) the speaker's passion in social work, to which we want to address the issue which the speaker called it social work discourse to child labour.

We want to bring this discourse further in Nepal because the speaker believed that social work has an answer to eliminate child labour not just from Nepal, but from Asia and the world. He believed that we can still see a world free of child labour within this century.

There are 3 discourses about child labour. The first one is the work-free childhood perspective. Childhood is nice and we should protect this because it is very special. Many people such as Sigmund Freud actually talked about childhood. If you have a problem in your childhood or if you have a crisis in your childhood, you will develop abnormalities in the later stage of your life. Child labour, therefore, destroys the childhood of children since childhood is supposed to be free, nice, pleasant, secure, and protective. A good childhood will make a better and productive citizen for his/her family and country in the future. This discourse on the work-free childhood perspective is the major discourse that many NGOs to

subsidize including UNICEF. They invest a lot of money on education to ensure that childhood is being taken care of and that the children will become better citizens in the later stages of their lives. So, this is a very interesting dominant discourse which we see in Nepal and many other countries.

Another dominant discourse is the socio-cultural perspective. Child labour is not a new problem, we've seen this for centuries and we are still seeing it. We are social workers, we bring changes to the society but why does child labour still exist? So this socio-cultural perspective talks about the fact that children are assets; they need to be taken care of by us so that they can take care of us in the future when they become adults like a form of social insurance. So there are a lot of cultural influences, a lot of religion influences, and other aspects attach to child labour so this means a lot of work.

Another dominant discourse is political economy; why child labour exists in this century, child slavery, child trafficking, child pedophilia (sexual abuse), children in media, children in fashion, children in beauty games, and the likes. Children now are seen as economic goods and this is where child labour is the outcome of the politic. And children can be mobilized because of money and sometimes they do not ask question which is much easier for them to be exploited. However, if you provide the family a cash-incentive to send their children to school, they would stop sending children to the work, but send them to school instead. There are also others that believe that children are not economic assets, but they are actually social capital or human capital, kind of argument. So we see a lot of discourses in political economy.

The speaker wanted see is a social work discourse, as social work is a human rights profession. He wanted this discourse to be built so that we can find an answer to child labour and eliminate it forever. He believed in this, and this is the discourse he would like to build in a country like Nepal and that is how he would conclude his lecture.

If you talk about political economy, then there is also something called work and labour. How do we differentiate work and labour? Children work is normal, like when I say to my daughter "bring me my clothes", "organize the table", or "help me clean my room". All of these are children work, but not labour. Work is good but labour is bad. Labour is harsh and dirty and forces the children to do things. So there is also a discourse between work and labour. Within these ideologies, you can also see the labour market discourse and human

capital discourse and other discourses like social responsibility discourse and child center discourse, which is where the social work comes into the picture – the child center – such as UNCRC and other UN conventions that we have talked about and IFSW is a big champion.

Child center discourse emphasizes on the children rights. They have rights to survive, to develop, to prosper, and to be protected from exploitation from labour industries. So work is fine, it is safe and children learn skills. But labour is against the rights and interest of the children and that is why we should stop it and punish the perpetrator.

In the IFSW manual, it clearly says the thing about social work: social work originates variously from humanitarian and democratic ideas. Humanitarian is democracy. So this is where we can understand how we should differentiate children work and labour. Social work is about change. Social work is simply not a work with individuals, but also a work with children especially with those in difficult situations.

Nepal is a landlocked country between 2 world powers – India and China. However, others say that Nepal is a “land link” country because it connects India and China, which also brings a lot of problem on child labour. Children come in and work in Nepal. They are trafficked from Nepal to China and India. So there are lots of things that come with globalization and mobility in migration, opening of the borders.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world but full of natural resources. It does not lack of resources but the problem lies within the management of these resources. The reason that child labour exists in Nepal is because of the lack of political stability and its evaluation.

Child labour is in reality today. Around 7 million out of the total population of 30 million are child labourers. Many of them are also working in the worst form of the labour like girl trafficking for prostitution and sexual abusive activities. This is a reminder of an inadequate education system. Because education is not there in every place, their parents send them do the center like Kathmandu or other areas to work as a domestic servant. They think children can learn enough. For example, they let the children work for 3 hours in the morning and 1 hour for school and then come back to work again so they can get food, shelter, clothes, and also “education”, but they must work. Basically, they work for 24 hours. This is one of the reasons why child labour exists: the lack of the access to education, the government’s

inability to act, politics of power and above all, the society's acceptance of a "social wrong". The society accepts that child labour is fine and this is the kind of cultural discourse that we have to question: how does the society accept that child labour is fine? This is what the lecturer called it a "social wrong".

There are many sectors where we can find children working. Fifteen main areas of work have been identified

1. Factory/industry (carpet)
2. Mines and quarries
3. Plantation
4. Domestic service
5. Shop keeper/service
6. Transportation
7. Porters
8. Construction work
9. Street work
10. Commercial Sexual Exploitation
11. Bonded labour/Kamlari/Haruwa/Charuwa
12. Migrant child labour
13. Refugee working children
14. Circus/entertainment industry
15. Publicity and advertising

In the total child population of 6,225,000 in Nepal, 41% of them are working children, 26% are economically active children, 5% are waged child labour, and 2% are forced to work in the worst forms of child labour.

For children's work and education, we can see that more than 88% are in agriculture, 8% in industries and 3% in services. Among all the children population, 89% of them are in school, yet, school attendance may not give accurate figures.

There are lots of policies, conventions, and acts, but the number of child labour is still increasing. There are policies that have been in place for 20 years like The ILO/IPEC Project on Sustainable Elimination of Child Bonded Labour and other government agencies that are working on it. Now, there is another discourse called "The Decent Work Country Program" and the paradigm is changing from child labour to a "decent work". This program runs from 2013-2017 and has 3 priorities which we are looking into these and done some research on them – how the promotion on employment-centric and inclusive growth (priority 1) and improving labour market governance and industrial relations (priority 2) impact on child labour. There are also other policies in the last 20 years in Nepal such as School Sector Reform Plan or National Planning Commission's Three-Year Plan. There are also lots of institutions and collaborations such as Department of Labour or The Women's and Children's Service Directorate. There are also donor programs such as World Bank funded, Japanese funded, UNICEF, etc. However, the unfortunate thing is that the number of children in child labour is still increasing.

So there must be some problem in the way the society looks at it. This is when the media comes into the picture. There are lots of roles that the media play in the construction of the child labour issue.

Who can build a social work discourse in Nepal? If you look at the UN convention and other articles, there are lots of article that can help us to work in this sector, to advocate in lobby right for the rights of the children. Also, what we did is to educate the social workers who can actually work in this area which we are actually able to get social work discourse. So we came up with a curriculum where we want the students to understand the whole UN convention because they are the documents that can be used, and also students are encouraged to review the country's government reports that were sent to the UN. There are also shadow reports from NGOs, and we look at them, study and analyze and try to

understand the politics behind the reports. We also encouraged our students to use the UN convention as a case study to analyze and give policy and recommendation to the state and non-state actors. We have courses on children rights at the Nepal School of Social Work. We also have juvenile justice for six semesters. We also do lots of publication on child labours and children rights.

We should be mobilizing the society to see that child labour is an issue in Nepal since child labour is not seen as an issue by the society and the society are immune to the change in the perception. We have to make child labour an issue. We need to avoid sclerosis – state is very stiff now. Recognize children as policy actors, and work with state and non-state actors and governors so that we can bring some coordination.

Last but not least is the economic, political and social renewal in the whole country. With this, we can solve this problem. If we can develop a social work discourse based on human rights perspective, we can solve the problem for good.

3. Md. Habibur Rahman from Bangladesh

About the speaker

- Assistant Professor & Chair, Department of Sociology & Social Work

People are seeking out the way how we approach child labor and the cause of child labor. Bangladesh is a third-world country but being a citizen of the country.

The first cause of child labor in Bangladesh is that the policy makers (politicians) are lack of motivation and interest to solve the child labor problem. Their children are studying abroad like in America, Australia, European countries and that is why they do not bother to make a policy to eradicate child labor in the country. Politicians (and their children) are never hungry and therefore there is no need for them to move around solving problems. In first world countries, policies come from the head, but in our country, policies come from the stomach. On the other hand, for social workers, service is done by heart, but for politicians, it is not. Politics cannot be held by businessmen. Politics should come from the heart of nationalist, the person who loves his country, love to do a better thing for his country.

Another reason for child labor is that the businessmen always look for a much easier and cheaper way to obtain labors which, in this case, are children. Child labor is doing the same amount of work as the adult labor so but is a lot cheaper.

Also, some social workers in Bangladesh do not root from the field of social work, but come from other fields like anthropology, sciences, English, history. So sometimes they lack passion to do things. They talk more than listen to their clients. In social work, never say “I”, “I” is for “me” only.

The situation of child labor in Bangladesh is similar to India and Nepal in most cases in the way that people are fighting for survival. Statistics in 2006 shows that there are 7.4 million working children aged 5-17, 4.7 million working children aged 5-14, 3.2 million child labourers aged 5-17, 1.3 million children engaged in hazardous labour aged 5-17, and 421,000 child domestic workers.

Most child labourers are working in agricultural and non-agricultural sector/economy such as agricultural work, handicrafts, bidi factory, domestic work, mat factories, shrimp

processing factory, oil mill, rice mill, jute mill, fishing net knitting, fishing, boatman, firewood collector, porter in village market, weaving, shop/sales assistant/vendor, poultry/farm, and even smuggling.

Some child labourers are also working for urban economy such as aluminium factories, automobile engineering, bangles production, blacksmith, battery breaking, bedding stores, biscuit & bread factories, book binding, car painting/metal painting, carpenter/wooden furniture, carpet factory, ceramic factory, chemical dyeing, construction work, electric mechanics, embroidery & dyeing, engineering/lathe machine workshop, ferry boat helpers, flour mill/spice mill, foam factory, garment by product processing, gas burner repairing/mechanic, glass production, goldsmith, grocery shop assistant, hair dressing, iron/net/screw/volt factory and Karchupi.

The main incentives in Bangladesh regarding elimination of child labour are the work opportunities for cheap and unskilled labour relative to the inaccessibility of school and economic benefits of sending child to work which is greater than that of going to school. In addition, the constraints for child labour elimination include extreme poverty, death of earning member in the family, parental divorce, abandonment of children, economic shocks, catastrophic health problems in family, and natural calamities. At the same time, there are interactive factors such as inaccessible and low quality education including inadequate provision of technical and vocational education, opportunity and direct cost of schooling being too high, parental disinterest, value and attitudes regarding education, especially of girls and children with disabilities, inadequate legal enforcement of provisions regarding education and child labour, and ethnic and gender discrimination.

National legislation and policies against child labor are also ineffective because they only focus on the minimum age at which children can legally work in certain sectors.

- The Mines Act, 1923: 15 years (with medical certificate of fitness)
- The Shops and Establishments Act, 1965:12 years
- The Factories Act, 1965 :14 years (with medical certificate of fitness)
- The Employment of Children Act, 1938:15 years
- The Employment of Children Act, 1938:12 years
- The Tea Plantation Labour Ordinance, 1962:15 years.
- The Bangladesh LabourLaw (Amendment), 2013: 14 Years

- The Bangladesh National Children Policy, 2011:below 18yrs

Bangladesh is a signatory of ILCs (International Labor Conventions) such as ILC 29, ILC 87, ILC 98, ILC 100 and many others that have been ratified except for ILC 138 and also a signatory of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Current contribution of social workers in protecting child labor: many NGOs are working. However, the question is whether or not these NGO workers come from social work background or different other backgrounds. When they are doing NGO works, they have little idea of what social work is, including its principles, norms, values, strategies, tactics, models, perspectives, approaches, etc. So when they are implementing their job in field level, they do not have that much idea to counsel the children and therefore their strategies are not quite sustainable. Social workers who, on the other hand, have more motivation are becoming more caring and active in changing the livelihood and status of the poor and working children. They provide counseling for the children which many NGOs do not do very often.

There is also an example on child labor elimination project originated from the collaboration between UNICEF and Bangladeshi government. They have many fundings, but always emphasize on materialistic changes. They think we support them, we educate them, we bring them back to normal life and that is all. They do not focus on mental recovery like social workers do.

Professional social workers should come from the right background so they can work effectively. Right now a lot of social workers come from diverse background and cannot tackle the problem effectively because they lack understanding, knowledge, and good strategies. Social work needs to be professionalized. Few people want to become a social worker because it is seen as a volunteering activity. Social workers have no recognition and have no fame.

4. Sompong Sakkaew

About the Speaker

- Founder/ Director of the Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation
- Awarded as a hero of anti-human trafficking in person by US government in 2008.
- Outstanding social worker by the Pakorn Ungsusi
- Ashoka Fellowship in 2013

Thai government tries to focus on state's security, while NGOs look at human rights. Migrant labor phenomenon is both push and pull factor that affects Thai politics and economics. More than 80% of the economic and social problem in the original countries comes to Thailand. The number of migrant workers in Thailand in 2014 was more than 1.6 million and migrant children also account for high number.

Last year, 1.5 million migrant workers are Burmese, Cambodian, and Laos. Many Cambodian workers come to work in construction sites, agriculture, and fishery. There are both migrant children and children of migrant workers born in Thailand as their parents move to work here. The number of migrant workers is highest in Bangkok, Chon Buri, and Samut Sakhon respectively. Before 2014, the number of migrant workers was more than 3-4 million and their children were more than 300,000 - 400,000.

Many migrant workers face lots of problem like accident from work, being addicted to gambling, forced to pay bribes, sexual abused, child labor, human trafficking, etc. Registering of work permit also takes a long time to complete which make some migrant workers working undocumented. In Samut Sakorn, child labor problem exists in factories especially in shrimp factory and food processing factories. Right now we are working with the government especially, the Ministry of Labor and that we provide a technical support to the government.

This month, US government has a report about Thailand's improvement in solving child labor. The interesting point is there is a negative perception towards migrant workers. We also lack of Thai labors to work in the factory so we have to hire migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia.

Migrant workers are also unable to access fundamental rights in health care. Right now, Thailand has a policy about health insurance for migrant children, yet they have to pay 1 baht/day if they are below 7 and the same rate as the adult if they are 7-15.

We also have a good policy for migrant children to access Thai government school but not so many. We also have learning center for migrant children especially in the border town of Mae Sot, Ranong, and some in Samut Sakhon.

We try to advocate the government to provide services to these migrant workers and migrant children. Migrant workers, however, are not allowed to set up a union because the government does not allow it. According to the speaker, it is time to incorporate migrant workers' culture into Thai society since ASEAN is coming.

Case study of migrant workers in Samut Sakorn: More than 3 hundred registered migrant workers and more than 10,000 - 20,000 undocumented migrant workers. There are also workers from north-eastern of Thailand coming to work here. If we talk about Samut Sakhon, it is like talking about the whole country because the problems are concentrated there: child labor in fishery and seafood processing, labor rights abuse and trafficking although some factories have joined a program called GLP or Good Labor Practices provide by ILO.

LPN set up labor centers more than 10 years ago and works with migrant workers in Thailand especially those that came from the neighbor countries. The contents of LPN are: access to basic human rights, education, health, workers' rights, elimination of child labor, human trafficking, etc.

Thailand has a model to solve the problem of child labor: labor center and Sunday learning center, multicultural center, migrant children center in Thai government schools in many provinces. We also set up a Seafarers Action Center, focusing on helping Thai labors in Indonesia.

The country also has a program with DTAC, when they have a mobile phone they can register for it to gain access to news via their phones and also to be able to make a contact with agencies when needed.

We also work with and NGO from Cambodia, network of campaigns with more than 20 organizations coming to work together on the issue of migrant children and migrant workers. We also support migrant workers to set up a cultural center in the community by themselves.

Moderator's Comments

Mr. Sompong gave a good example of vulnerable group of child labor. Children of migrant workers are sometimes registered but the other times not so the figure is very fragmented. Lower than 20% of children of migrant workers receive education. We also send people to another country to help protect human rights. Likewise, regarding other worst forms of child labor including children working with hazardous work, prostitution, and other issues, it is the social workers who have hearts to look out for them. Ministry of Labor only looks at manufacturing sectors and Ministry of Social Welfare and Social Development may already have a lot to do.

Q&A Session

Q: What is the role of NGO doing in respond to the problem of child labor in Thailand?

A: NGO is the one that responsible for setting up labor center, NGO also helps those work in fisheries in overseas. More than 70 – 80% of the cases are helped by NGO. NGO also has lots of translators to speak in the language of the migrant workers.

5. Feedback from Attendants

Michiko Hirata, treasurer of IFSWAP, asked the attendants to share their feedbacks of the workshop and personal experiences about today's topic. They were asked to make a group of 8-10, preferably with a mix of nationality. Each group was requested to have a representative to share the group's opinion.

Group 1

Group 1 was represented by Nuch from Thailand, a graduate from Thammasat University, faculty of social administration. From the group discussion, they mostly talked about the gaps or the obstacles that we face as social workers. Firstly, a large number of practitioners has never been taught academically and therefore are under-qualified like in Bangladesh and Thailand. Secondly, to produce a professional social worker, we need more social work schools and lecturers like in India where they have like 400 schools of social work whereas in Thailand we have only 6. Thirdly, it is about how people value social workers. Many people like in Myanmar see social workers' works as a charity-based, giving direct benefit, just to build school and services. As a suggestion, we need to advocate our voices on government and political sectors to recognize social work profession and see that it has to be professionalized.

Group 2

Group 2 consisted of 8 people from 4-5 countries combined. They came up with the following suggestions:

The first suggestion is to apply gender responsive management into the solving of child labor because the Group does not see the separation of gender in the number of child labors like how many boys and how many girls are there.

The second one is that child labor is not just the government's concern, it's everybody's issue, so we want IFSW to encourage different sectors of the society to

recognize it or make it like trans-regional or trans-global issue because a country with no child labor problem can lend their hand to help to country that has such problem to solve the issue.

Third, it is important to make sure that children also participate in solving the issue as it is the basic rights of them.

Lastly, it was the representative's own suggestion to request IFSW to encourage a formation of network to solve the child labor problem in each country because from what the representative sees is that only Thailand has such a network.

Group 3

One of the main recommendations for IFSW is that we believe that there are some works that can be more done by IFSW.

Different standards should be discussed in the issue of child labour and to bear in mind the gender equality.

When the recommendation are put to place, we believe that it would be more practical if there can be a bottom-up solution, where the recommendation comes from the issues and from the national associations of social work in different countries.

The Group also talked about the issue about the struggle of the national association, for example, in Nepal at the moment, where the association is trying to be more "formed" to build up itself. And so it may not be the time yet to take on other issues.

The Group also talked about how we can take what the other countries have already done or accomplished.

The Group also talked about the advocacy for social worker because one of the group members' colleagues have pointed out that it is not our strong point when it comes to make ourselves be recognized.

Supporting each other in group and try to share experience between countries would help solving the problem

Another issue is that more social work trainings are required as well as more skilled social workers are also required too. This would help promote social work as a profession.

We have acts, yet when it comes to implementation, it is weak and the problem still exists.

Group 4

We used to punish our children using our hands but nowadays children have rights to be protected

Children punishment from parents also, must not rely on violence e.g. in Thailand that when the child do something wrong, his/her parents usually beat the child with their hand or something around.

Summary of Conference

Miss Rose Henderson, IFSW Member-at-Large came on stage to summarize the conference and close the workshop.

This afternoon was about promoting the right of children, focusing on child and labor and children on a move. The first presenter from India began by wanting us all to recall our memories of childhood. This is to remind us that the people we are talking about this afternoon are not so lucky to have such memories. He also offered a following definition of child labor: where it is a work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. Mr. Sriganesh outlined many measures that have been put on place, noting the need to put children in schools and provide the support for families to enable them to live without needing the children's income. While Indian law requires children to go to school up to 14 and the school must accept them, there are many legislations and policy documents on prohibition and regulation of child labor, and policy to deal with the education and protection of children. We also saw many examples where these are not happening. We saw 2 videos, one showing the voices of children and their hopes and the other one showed the alternative case model. These social workers in India have passion and are now working to see the abolition of child labor in India.

Next we heard from Bara Nikku from Nepal. He talked about the 4 dominant discourses of child labor: 1) the work-free childhood perspective. He denoted the difference between the appropriate works versus the inappropriate labor of children, 2) socio-cultural perspective, 3) the political economic perspective, and 4) which is not yet dominant but the inspirational culture of social work discourse. This would be the development of the child-centered discourse, focusing on the rights of children, not to be exploited. Bara referred to several IFSW and other international guidance and documents and interestingly, IFSW president Ruth Stark is being involved in many of those IFSW documents so that was good. The issue is still there because of an inadequate education system, a government's inability to act, politics of power and above all, a society's acceptance of a social wrong. These issue point us to areas that we need to address in a coordinated way. He also noted to role of the media and the need to mobilize social action against child labor.

Next, Mr. Rahman from Bangladesh pointed some of the issues in his country, noting the causes of child labor: the lack of motivation by politicians to address the problem and

being lobbied by businessmen who seek to keep the status quo. Children work at the same rate as the adult at far less cost. There are some issues of social worker's proficiency as well as many of them not having been trained, informed or guided by professional ethics, human rights justice and principles. Some social workers have spent less time listening and more time talking. Although Bangladesh is a signatory for many legislatures and policies against child labor, there are so many problems. Gradually though, social workers are developing more activism and volunteers are becoming more caring and seeking to change the livelihood and status of the poor and child laborers. Mr. Rahman also talked about the approach called Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children, in note of the emerging positive results.

Finally we heard from Mr. Sompong from Thailand. He is the director of Labour Rights Promotion Network. He shared his works and insights with the migrant labor market and the children of these workers. Acknowledging the complex and multiple reasons leading to migrant workers such as political-social, indoor economic problem of the countries of the origin, these population are often forced – across border and subject to multiple issues of exploitation. Migrant workers are unable to access fundamental healthcare, education, legal advocacy, or government services. While there are many documented workers, there are also more undocumented migrant workers. Labour Rights Promotion Network has been going for more than 3 years and he shared with us many practical examples of how this organization works to support this group of people. Some of these include labor centers, learning centers, Multilanguage/ multicultural centers, migrant children centers. There are also apps in the smartphone for migrant workers in case they need help. The network also develops a guideline for the government, for business, for researchers and importantly, for buyers and consumers of products.

Some of the themes across all of the speakers this afternoon include that there are great similarity in the industries' exploitation of children and migrant labor across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Thailand as well as other countries. There is also a need for social work by educators and practitioners to raise the profile and the role of the profession to promote the elimination of child labor and alternative means of addressing poverty. The third theme from there was a call for international linkages through IFSW to unite against child labor and to free the children to achieve their own goals to study and to pursue the career of their own choices.